

On returning to Scotland, after this second American tour, he was in the year 1824 recommended by Mr. McNab, of the Edinburgh Botanical Gardens, to collect and take charge of a vessel load of plants to be taken to St. Petersburg for the starting of a botanical garden there, in which mission he acquitted himself to the satisfaction of his employers. On his return from this expedition he settled down with his family in the nursery business, but returned to Russia again in 1830 and made a collecting excursion through the country, amongst some of the fruits of which was the introduction to the English horticultural world of such plants as the *Picea pictita*, *Pavenia tenuifolia plena*, etc. From this time till the year 1844 he followed the business of nurseryman and florist at the old home near by to the birthplace of the poet Burns, a few miles from the town of Ayr.

In 1844, having formed a favorable opinion of Canada West as a place of emigration, in which he might have a chance to better the circumstances of himself and family, he took ship with his entire household, for Montreal, and from there journeyed westward and chose as a resting-place a spot near some of his old-world neighbors, about a mile from Ayr, in the county of Waterloo, where he died, surrounded by children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, last June, in his ninety-fourth year.

Desmodium molle DC.—This species, heretofore accredited to Florida, seems to be no nearer to us than St. Thomas of West Indies, Panama, and tropical South America. It should be dropped from our catalogues. The plant described under that name with doubt by Chapman, and on that authority entered in Watson's Index, is *D. tortuosum* DC. To it are to be referred *No. 30 Garber's South Florida Fl.*, and *No. 623 Curtiss' N. Am. Pl.* Its more distant verticels of filiform, recurved, thrice longer (9'') pedicels, and its pendulous loment of 4-6 equal, twisted, 2'' long, fertile joints, sufficiently distinguish *D. tortuosum* from the following:

D. molle DC.; ? *Macf. Fl. Jam.*; *Benth. in Fl. Brasil.*; *Griseb. Fl. Brit. W. Ind.*; *not Chapm. (No. 361 Eggers' Fl. Ind. Occ.)*—Probably distinct from every other known species by its loment. This is 2- or occasionally 3-jointed; upper joint only perfecting seed, flat, oval, enlarged (3'' long) and detaching itself at maturity, suture notched at insertion of seed; lower joints minute, undulate-twisted, sterile, persistent.—JOHN DONNELL SMITH.

Testa of the seeds of *Phytolacca*¹.—Being engaged in a study of *Phytolacca*, and noticing the paper of Mr. L. H. Pammel on the structure of the testa of several leguminous seeds, published in the *Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club*, February, 1886, at Dr. Coulter's suggestion I made an examination of the testa of the seeds of *Phytolacca*, with the following results: There are four distinct regions: 1. The palisade layer (I). This layer consists of flat very thick-walled cells, each containing a very irregular cell cavity, completely filled with a large granular mass and numerous small granules. The thick walls contain a brown pigment, and are roughened all over by small projec-

¹See plate VIII.